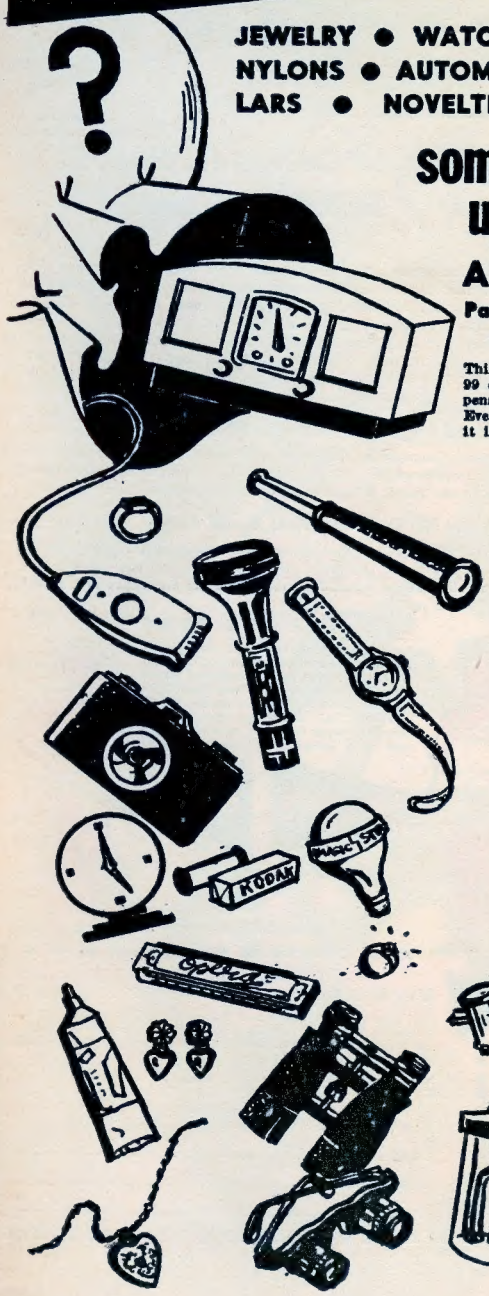
Lucky Grab Bag

JEWELRY ● WATCHES ● PENS ● CUTLERY NYLONS ● AUTOMATIC PENCILS ● BINOCULARS ● NOVELTIES ● APPLIANCES, ETC.

some formerly up to $10

99¢



All Brand New—Many Famous Brands

Parker ● G-E ● Bulova ● Kodak ● Thoresen ● Dupont ● Korium ● Rocket ● Eversharp

This is your **LUCKY DAY!** Imagine! a useful, novel article that sold up to $10 for only 99 cents! This is one way to unload odds and ends—attractive merchandise such as jewelry, pens, watches, cutlery, binoculars, microscopes, telescopes, rings, appliances, novelties, etc. Every article is brand new—but some have minor scratches or are **ONE** of a kind, making it impossible to advertise. Yes! We include items formerly sold for $1.98 up to $10.00!

EVERYBODY has the SAME chance!

We play no favorites. You stand the same chance as the next fellow to get a valuable item. **THE LEAST YOU CAN EXPECT IS DOUBLE VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY!** Whether you get a $2.00 Eversharp pencil or a $10.00 watch—you are assured of real value and attractive **GUARANTEED** merchandise that you or your family will enjoy! This way we raise cash and at the same time gain new satisfied customers.

$1 DISCOUNT CERTIFICATE — FREE!

With your **GRAB BAG SURPRISE** you receive a 32-page catalog of popular nationally advertised merchandise at bargain prices—plus a **DOLLAR DISCOUNT CERTIFICATE** valid on all orders for $3 or more! This means your **GRAB BAG** will not cost you a single penny! The **GRAB BAG** is sold to you on a positive 5-day money-back guarantee. You take no chances. Why not try your luck? You have absolutely **NOTHING** to lose and lots to gain. A big **SURPRISE** awaits you! Pin a dollar bill to the coupon and mail **TODAY!** For the extra penny we'll include an additional 19c item! Mail the handy coupon **NOW!**

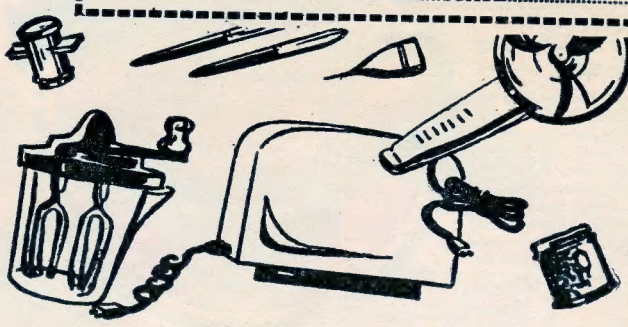
HONOR COMPANY, Dept. 99-H-91
352 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Please RUSH me a GRAB BAG at 99c. I must be absolutely satisfied with my purchase or I may return it within 5 days for full refund. Also send me the free catalog and $1 discount certificate. ☐ I enclose 99c payment. ☐ I enclose $1 payment. Send me an additional 19c item.

NAME.....

ADRESSS.....

CITY.....STATE.....

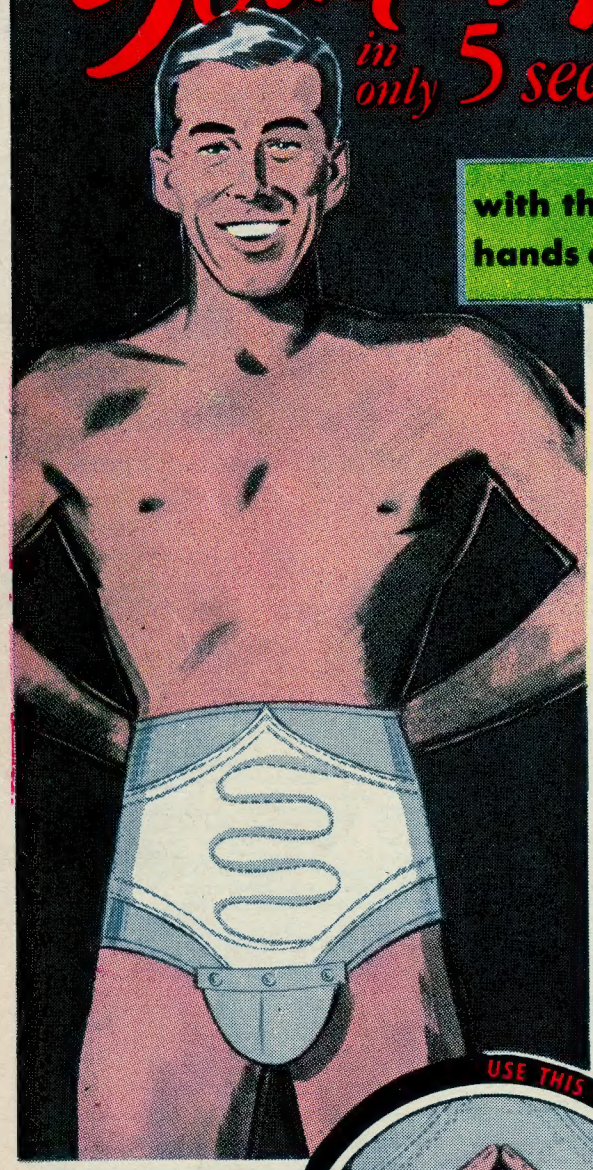


APPEAR

Slim 'N Trim

in only 5 seconds

with the interlocking hands of firm support*



instantly enjoy LOOKING IN SHAPE / FEELING IN SHAPE

If a sagging "corporation" is getting you down and spoiling your appearance try this right now: INTERLOCK your hands and press up and in across the extended abdomen. See how the abdomen is pushed back in and held there! Like this sensation of feeling better and looking good? Of course you can't keep your interlocked hand across your abdomen all the time and you do not have to because our brand NEW POWER-KNIT COMMANDER* belt with the exclusive Interlocking Hands of Firm Support* will give you the same results quickly and all the time too!

Back is Held Together—Clothes Fit Better

New Power-Knit Commander makes clothes fit better, actually permits you to take in several notches on your belt. New Commander holds your back together and keeps it from getting the falling-apart feeling.

Work Better All Day and Feel Good Too!

All we say is try New Power-Knit Commander and compare how you feel and look at the end of a strenuous day's work with the way you did before wearing New Commander. You must enjoy the difference or the cost will be nothing to you.

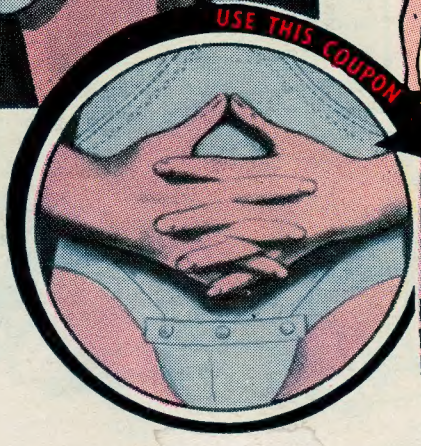
TRY 10 DAYS FREE

Send the coupon below and try this amazing new all around abdominal flattener which makes you look smooth and inches slimmer. Wear the New Power-Knit Commander 10 days and then decide: Either you look, feel and enjoy your new appearance much more or return the belt and we'll immediately refund the pur-

ONLY **$3.98**

Waist 28 to 47

USE THIS COUPON



Make The Interlocking Hands Test Now! ⟶

You do not have to send for the New Power-Knit Commander with Interlocking Hands of Firm Support* to test what it will do for you. To get the idea just do this: Interlock your hands across the extended abdomen and press up and in. Feel good? Of course! Now Try New Power-Knit Commander and see if you do not feel the same way.

Ward Green Co., Dept. P239, 43 West 61st St., New York 23

OK! Send the New Power-Knit Deluxe Commander with the "Interlocking Hands of Firm Support*" for 10 days trial. I either get the results promised or my purchase price will be promptly refunded.

My present waist measure is _____ inches.

☐ I enclose $3.98 ($4.98 for waist 47 and up)
☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman plus postage.
☐ Also send extra fly front pouches, 75c (3 for $2.00)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

*T M Reg U S PATENT Office Nos 520,148 and 506,797

ATLAS
BLACK KNIGHT
THE GREATEST KNIGHT OF THEM ALL!
SEPT.
BLACK KNIGHT
10¢
10¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THRILLS FROM KING ARTHUR AND HIS KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE!
ALL NEW GREATER THAN EVER!
YIELD OR FIGHT, SIR MODRED!
IN THIS GREAT ISSUE:
"THE BLACK KNIGHT UNMASKED!"
Joe Maneely

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page . . . or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, scout equipment, model airplanes, movie machines, record players, and many others . . . all WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need ON TRUST. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35c . . . sell on sight. You can secure big, cash commissions or many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you FREE!

SEND NO MONEY—*We Trust You!*

HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 big size richly decorated Mottos **On 15 Days TRUST.** When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the $8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE!

FREE Membership In FUNman's Fun Club

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and we'll give you FREE a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—PLUS many extra surprises!

The FUNman, Dept. X-132, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill. **FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG**

Please rush to me on 15 days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained under description of prize in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 15 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

NAME..... AGE.....

STREET or RFD .....

TOWN..... Zone.... STATE.....

SEND NO MONEY! . . . We Trust You!

The FUNman, Dept. X-132, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

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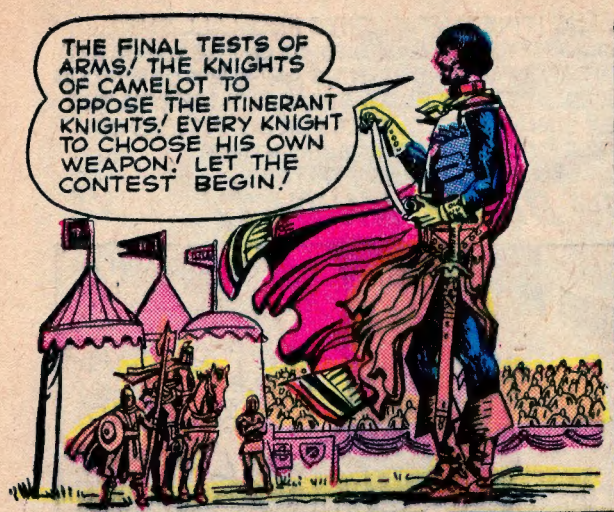
Black Knight
IT WAS JUNE, AND ITINERANT KNIGHTS FROM ALL OVER ENGLAND JOURNEYED TO CAMELOT TO ENTER THE GREAT TOURNAMENT AND PARTAKE OF KING ARTHUR'S GENEROUS PRIZES AND HOSPITALITY! BUT FOR MERLIN, ADVISER TO THE KING, THE SUMMER SUN WAS CLOUDED, FOR HIS POWERS OF SORCERY DETECTED EVIL POINTING TOWARD HIS ALLY AND PROTÉGÉ, THE BLACK KNIGHT!
A RAVEN... OMEN OF EVIL, CASTING HIS SHADOW UPON THE BLACK KNIGHT! AYE, EVIL IS ABROAD, AND I MUST FIND IT, ELSE IT WILL FIND MY EBONY-CLAD CHAMPION!
JOE Maneely
G292
THE BLACK KNIGHT! CHAMPION OF THE LISTS! HUZZAH!
UNEASE STIRS MY BONES! I MUST GO TO MY CHAMBERS AND INVOKE MY MAGICAL POWERS TO UNEARTH WHATEVER EVIL IS ABROAD!
1.


THE FINAL TESTS OF ARMS! THE KNIGHTS OF CAMELOT TO OPPOSE THE ITINERANT KNIGHTS! EVERY KNIGHT TO CHOOSE HIS OWN WEAPON! LET THE CONTEST BEGIN!

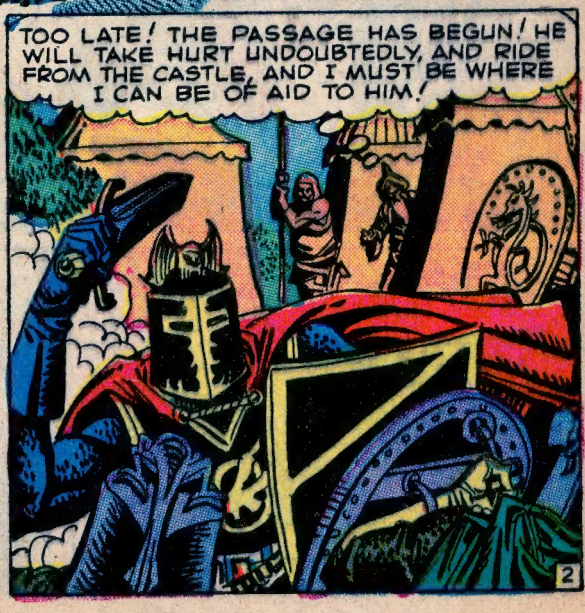
IN HIS CHAMBERS DEEP WITHIN THE STONE WALLS OF CAMELOT, MERLIN THE MAGICIAN GAZES DEEPLY INTO HIS CRYSTAL BALL...
NOW WHAT WILL MY CRYSTAL BALL REVEAL?

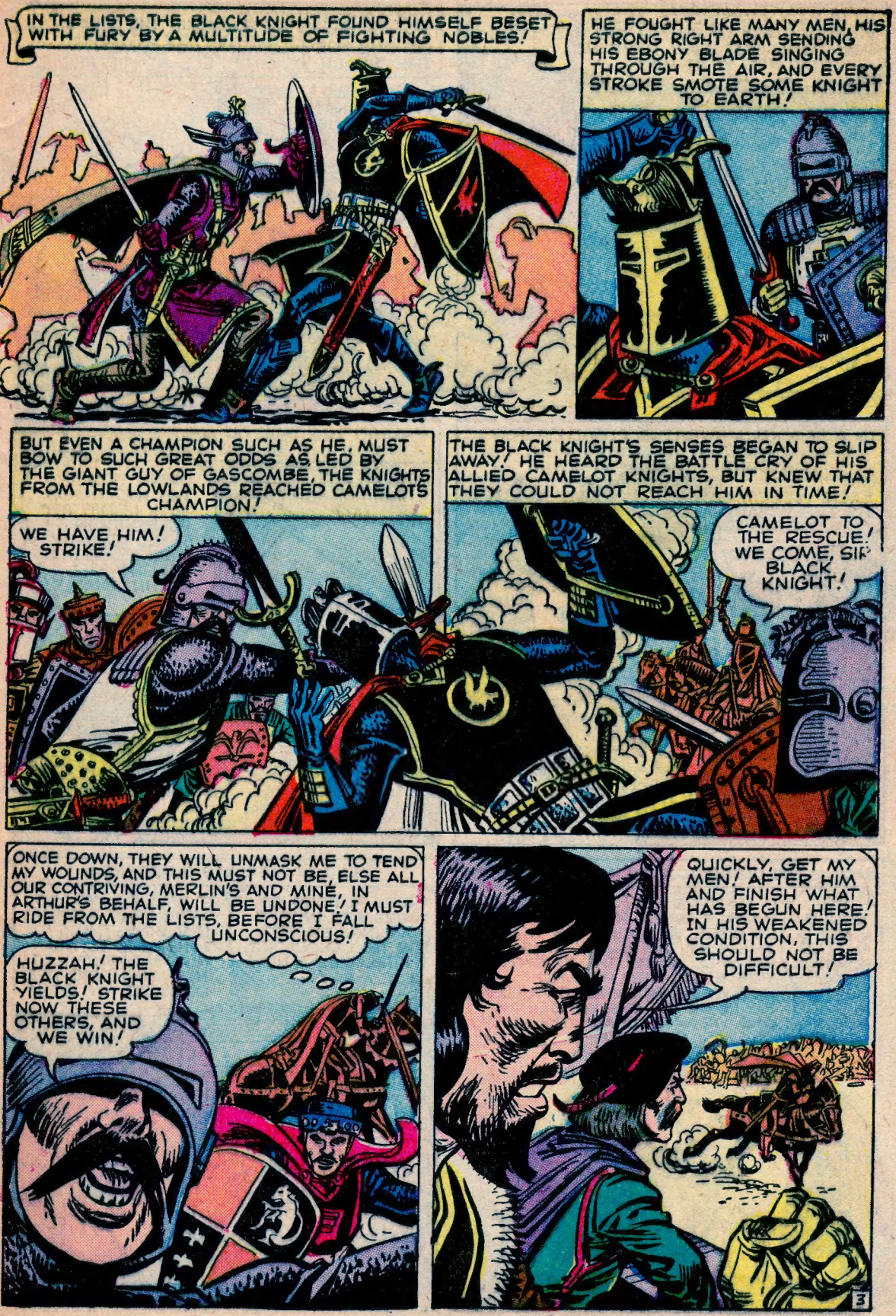
THE CLOUDINESS CLEARED FROM THE CRYSTAL! A GIANT FIGURE APPEARED THERE...
GUY OF GASCOMBE, ONE OF THE JOURNEYING KNIGHTS WHO IS ENTERED IN THIS PASSAGE OF ARMS! BUT WHERE IS THE EVIL IN THIS GIANT MAN OF KNIGHTLY PROWESS?

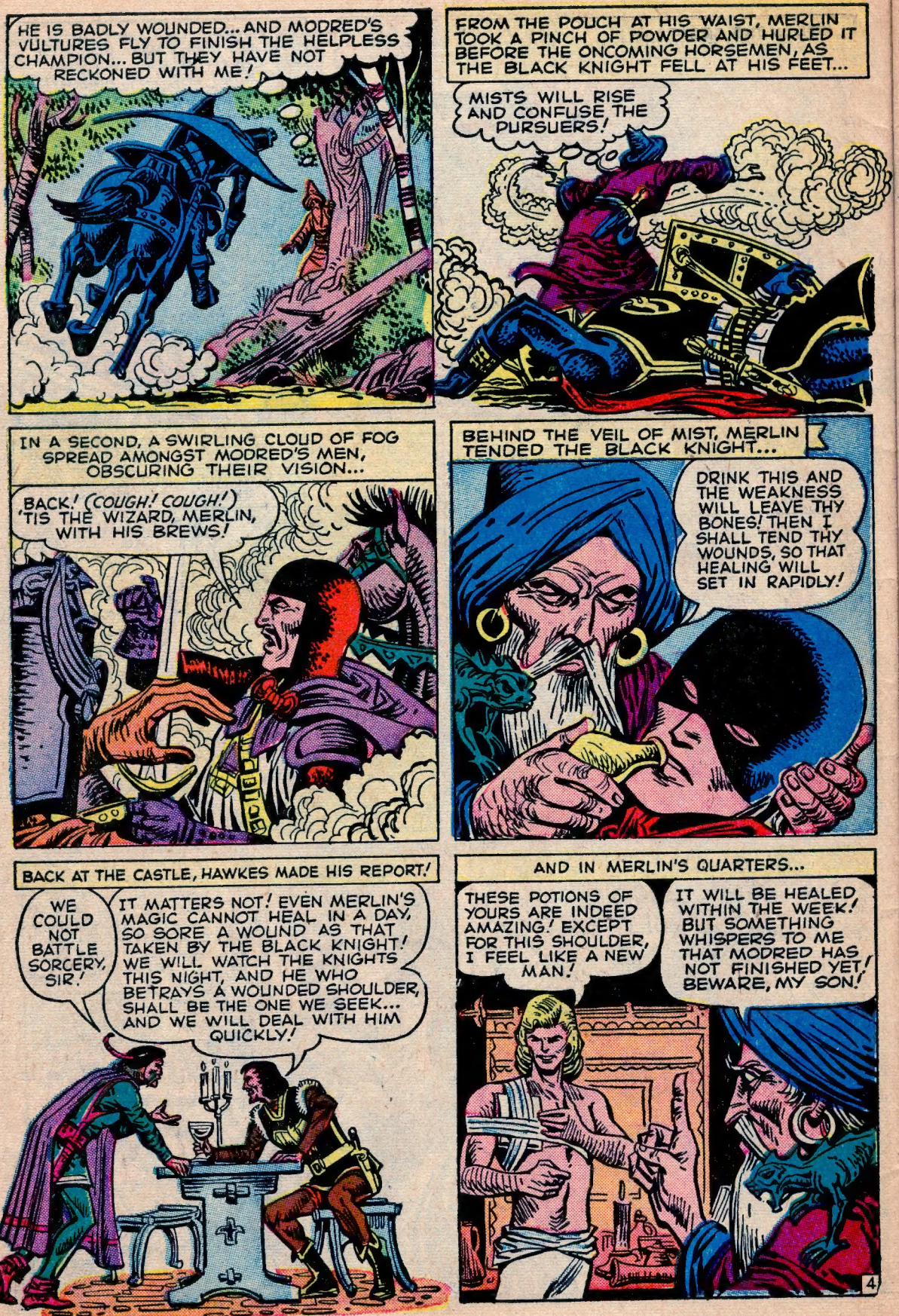
THE CRYSTAL CLEARED FURTHER, AND THEN MERLIN SAW THE VISAGE OF HAWKES, SIR MODRED'S MAN...
REMEMBER, TELL YOUR MEN TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BLACK KNIGHT! WITH HIM DOWNED, YOUR SIDE WILL EASILY WIN AND THE RICH WINNER'S REWARDS SHALL BE YOURS! ALL THE COURT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS KNIGHT HUMBLED!

I MUST GET TO THE LISTS TO WARN THE BLACK KNIGHT!

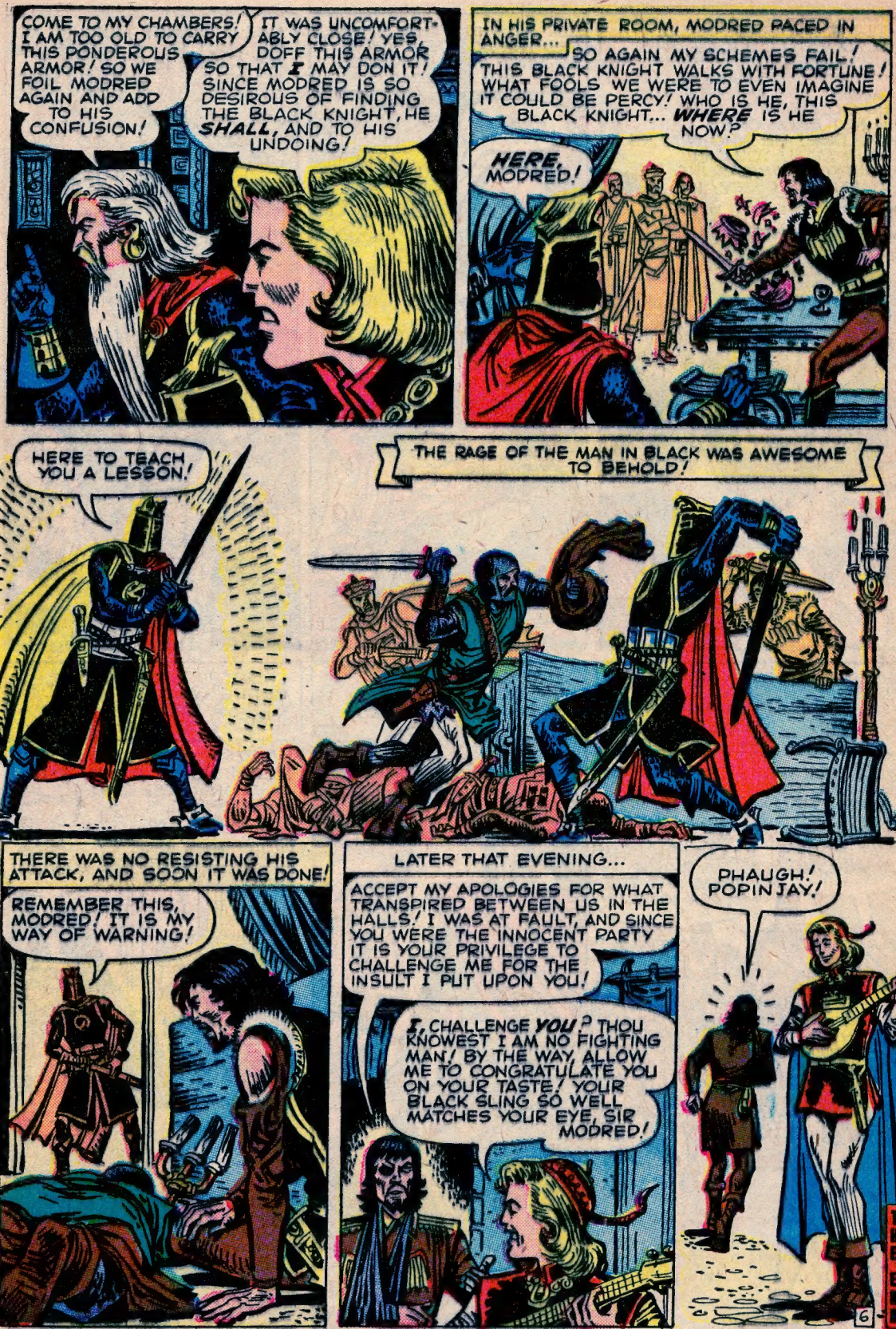
WHILE ON THE BALCONY!
IT IS DONE, SIR MODRED!
EXCELLENT! THE BLACK KNIGHT WILL BE DOWNED, AND HIS ARMOR REMOVED TO TEND HIS WOUNDS! HE WILL BE IN NO POSITION TO PROTEST WHEN I WHISK THE MASK FROM HIS FACE AND DISCLOSE HIS TRUE IDENTITY! ONCE I KNOW WHO HE IS, I SHALL DEAL WITH HIM SO HE NEVER PLAGUES ME AGAIN!


TOO LATE! THE PASSAGE HAS BEGUN! HE WILL TAKE HURT UNDOUBTEDLY, AND RIDE FROM THE CASTLE, AND I MUST BE WHERE I CAN BE OF AID TO HIM!
2


IN THE LISTS, THE BLACK KNIGHT FOUND HIMSELF BESET WITH FURY BY A MULTITUDE OF FIGHTING NOBLES!
HE FOUGHT LIKE MANY MEN, HIS STRONG RIGHT ARM SENDING HIS EBONY BLADE SINGING THROUGH THE AIR, AND EVERY STROKE SMOTE SOME KNIGHT TO EARTH!
BUT EVEN A CHAMPION SUCH AS HE, MUST BOW TO SUCH GREAT ODDS AS LED BY THE GIANT GUY OF GASCOMBE, THE KNIGHTS FROM THE LOWLANDS REACHED CAMELOT'S CHAMPION!
WE HAVE HIM! STRIKE!
THE BLACK KNIGHT'S SENSES BEGAN TO SLIP AWAY! HE HEARD THE BATTLE CRY OF HIS ALLIED CAMELOT KNIGHTS, BUT KNEW THAT THEY COULD NOT REACH HIM IN TIME!
CAMELOT TO THE RESCUE! WE COME, SIR BLACK KNIGHT!
ONCE DOWN, THEY WILL UNMASK ME TO TEND MY WOUNDS, AND THIS MUST NOT BE, ELSE ALL OUR CONTRIVING, MERLIN'S AND MINE, IN ARTHUR'S BEHALF, WILL BE UNDONE! I MUST RIDE FROM THE LISTS, BEFORE I FALL UNCONSCIOUS!
HUZZAH! THE BLACK KNIGHT YIELDS! STRIKE NOW THESE OTHERS, AND WE WIN!
QUICKLY, GET MY MEN! AFTER HIM AND FINISH WHAT HAS BEGUN HERE! IN HIS WEAKENED CONDITION, THIS SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT!
3

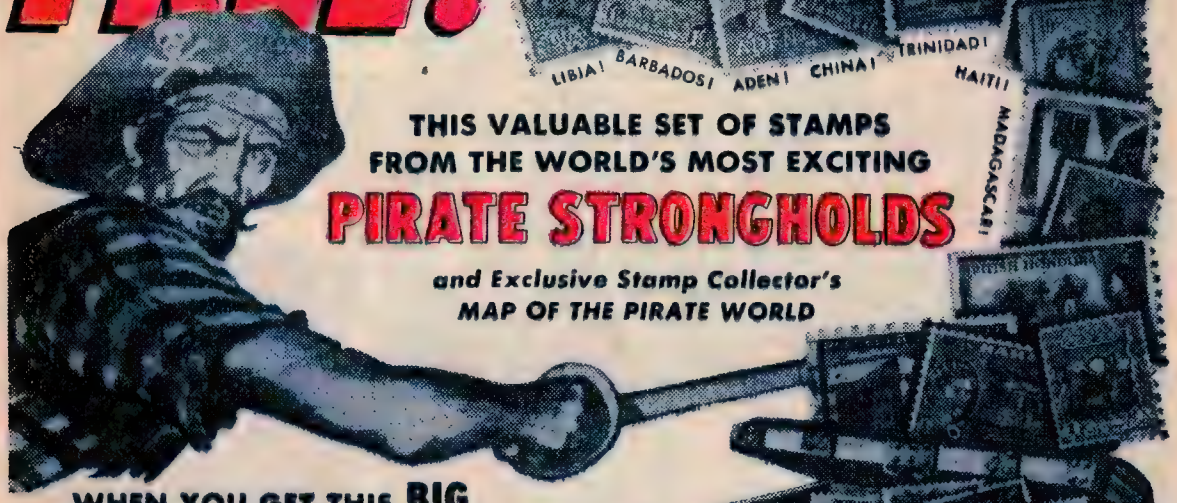

HE IS BADLY WOUNDED... AND MODRED'S VULTURES FLY TO FINISH THE HELPLESS CHAMPION... BUT THEY HAVE NOT RECKONED WITH ME!
FROM THE POUCH AT HIS WAIST, MERLIN TOOK A PINCH OF POWDER AND HURLED IT BEFORE THE ONCOMING HORSEMEN, AS THE BLACK KNIGHT FELL AT HIS FEET...
MISTS WILL RISE AND CONFUSE THE PURSUERS!
IN A SECOND, A SWIRLING CLOUD OF FOG SPREAD AMONGST MODRED'S MEN, OBSCURING THEIR VISION...
BACK! (COUGH! COUGH!) 'TIS THE WIZARD, MERLIN, WITH HIS BREWS!
BEHIND THE VEIL OF MIST, MERLIN TENDED THE BLACK KNIGHT...
DRINK THIS AND THE WEAKNESS WILL LEAVE THY BONES! THEN I SHALL TEND THY WOUNDS, SO THAT HEALING WILL SET IN RAPIDLY!
BACK AT THE CASTLE, HAWKES MADE HIS REPORT!
WE COULD NOT BATTLE SORCERY, SIR!
IT MATTERS NOT! EVEN MERLIN'S MAGIC CANNOT HEAL IN A DAY, SO SORE A WOUND AS THAT TAKEN BY THE BLACK KNIGHT! WE WILL WATCH THE KNIGHTS THIS NIGHT, AND HE WHO BETRAYS A WOUNDED SHOULDER, SHALL BE THE ONE WE SEEK... AND WE WILL DEAL WITH HIM QUICKLY!
AND IN MERLIN'S QUARTERS...
THESE POTIONS OF YOURS ARE INDEED AMAZING! EXCEPT FOR THIS SHOULDER, I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN!
IT WILL BE HEALED WITHIN THE WEEK! BUT SOMETHING WHISPERS TO ME THAT MODRED HAS NOT FINISHED YET! BEWARE, MY SON!

LATER IN THE GREAT HALL, FILLED WITH TALK OF THE TOURNAMENT...
HAWKES, CIRCLE AMONGST YON KNIGHTS AND FIND OCCASION TO LURCH AGAINST EACH ONE'S LEFT SHOULDER! HE WHO WINCES IS OUR MAN! YOU CAN ELIMINATE MY WEAKLING KINSMAN, SIR PERCY! HE IT CANNOT BE!
BUT FATE IS A FICKLE THING, AND THE ACCIDENT OF A SERVING MAN BETRAYS SIR PERCY!
OH!
NAY, IT CANNOT BE...BUT IT IS! THERE IS NO OTHER REASONING!
EXCUSE ME, LORDS AND LADIES, I FEAR I HAVE WRENCHED MY SHOULDER! I GO TO MY CHAMBERS TO REST AND EASE IT!
QUICKLY, MODRED GATHERED HIS MEN, AND IN THE EMPTY HALLS LEADING TO THE KNIGHTLY CHAMBERS, HE CONFRONTED SIR PERCY!
BUT I TELL THEE, KIND MAN, 'TIS BUT A WRENCHED SHOULDER, CAUSED BY THAT BOOR'S STUMBLING!
I THINK 'TIS A SWORD WOUND! YOU HAVE PLAYED ME A FOOL LONG ENOUGH! I THINK THOU ART THE BLACK KNIGHT!
WHO CALLS THE BLACK KNIGHT?
IT IS HE!
STARTLED, TAKEN ABACK, MODRED AND HIS MEN TURNED AND FLED IN CONFUSION DOWN THE HALLWAY!
YOUR RESCUE WAS MOST BEAUTIFULLY DONE! BUT WHO ARE YOU WHO MASQUERADES AS THE BLACK KNIGHT?
WHO BUT I... MERLIN!
5


COME TO MY CHAMBERS! I AM TOO OLD TO CARRY THIS PONDEROUS ARMOR! SO WE FOIL MODRED AGAIN AND ADD TO HIS CONFUSION!
IT WAS UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE! YES, DOFF THIS ARMOR SO THAT I MAY DON IT! SINCE MODRED IS SO DESIROUS OF FINDING THE BLACK KNIGHT, HE SHALL, AND TO HIS UNDOING!
IN HIS PRIVATE ROOM, MODRED PACED IN ANGER...
SO AGAIN MY SCHEMES FAIL! THIS BLACK KNIGHT WALKS WITH FORTUNE! WHAT FOOLS WE WERE TO EVEN IMAGINE IT COULD BE PERCY! WHO IS HE, THIS BLACK KNIGHT... WHERE IS HE NOW?
HERE, MODRED!
HERE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!
THE RAGE OF THE MAN IN BLACK WAS AWESOME TO BEHOLD!
THERE WAS NO RESISTING HIS ATTACK, AND SOON IT WAS DONE!
REMEMBER THIS, MODRED! IT IS MY WAY OF WARNING!
LATER THAT EVENING...
ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN US IN THE HALLS! I WAS AT FAULT, AND SINCE YOU WERE THE INNOCENT PARTY IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE TO CHALLENGE ME FOR THE INSULT I PUT UPON YOU!
I, CHALLENGE YOU? THOU KNOWEST I AM NO FIGHTING MAN! BY THE WAY, ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR TASTE! YOUR BLACK SLING SO WELL MATCHES YOUR EYE, SIR MODRED!
PHAUGH! POPINJAY!
6

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN ADVENTURE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

FREE!



THIS VALUABLE SET OF STAMPS
FROM THE WORLD'S MOST EXCITING

PIRATE STRONGHOLDS

and Exclusive Stamp Collector's
MAP OF THE PIRATE WORLD

WHEN YOU GET THIS BIG

"Pirate Chest"

OF 500 TREASURED STAMPS

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ALL DIFFERENT—including stamps from every part of the world where pirates ever lived or looted!

WHAT TREASURES YOU'LL FIND!

YOU'LL BE "RICH" IN STAMPS when you receive this "treasure chest" of 500 valuable stamps from all over the world, including places famous in history as PIRATE hideouts. These stamps are ALL DIFFERENT. There's no telling WHAT treasures you will find! We GUARANTEE the total stamp-catalog value will be AT LEAST TEN DOLLARS . . . maybe much more! Yet to get new names for our mailing list, we will send you this "treasure chest" of stamps for only ONE dollar.

And you'll also get FREE the extra-special stamps (shown at top of page) from the exciting pirate hideaways of La Fitte, Blackbeard, Captain Kidd—colorful stamps from the Bahamas . . . Barbados . . . Haiti . . . Trinidad . . . Madagascar . . . all the fabled haunts of the world's most bloodthirsty pirates! ALSO FREE—"How to Collect Stamps," plus Stamp Collector's Map of Pirate World to help identify your pirate-country stamps.

MAIL COUPON NOW

Rush coupon with $1 at once, while this amazing offer can still be made. Other interesting offers included for your inspection. If coupon has already been clipped, just send $1 with your name and address to: **LITTLETON STAMP CO., Dept. 8-MC, Littleton, N. H.**

FAMOUS DISCOVERER ALBUM
yours at an amazing low price

Has spaces for 11,000 stamps. Packed with pictures, descriptions of all countries, colonies, etc. Spaces for flags, coats of arms. Complete guide for beginners. 176 big pages. FULL-COLOR soil-proof cover. Yours for only $1 to help you to get started. Check box at bottom of coupon. FREE MAGNIFIER AND STAMP HINGES included if you act at once.

LITTLETON STAMP CO.
Dept. 8-MC, Littleton, N .H.

I enclose $1. Please send me the "Treasure Chest" of 500 Stamps (total value in standard stamp catalogs guaranteed to be at least $10) Include AT NO EXTRA CHARGE the "Pirate Stronghold" stamps shown at top of page, Stamp Collector's Map of the World, and a copy of "How to Collect Stamps." Send also other interesting stamp offers for my inspection. I understand I am not obligated to buy any stamps from you—now or later.

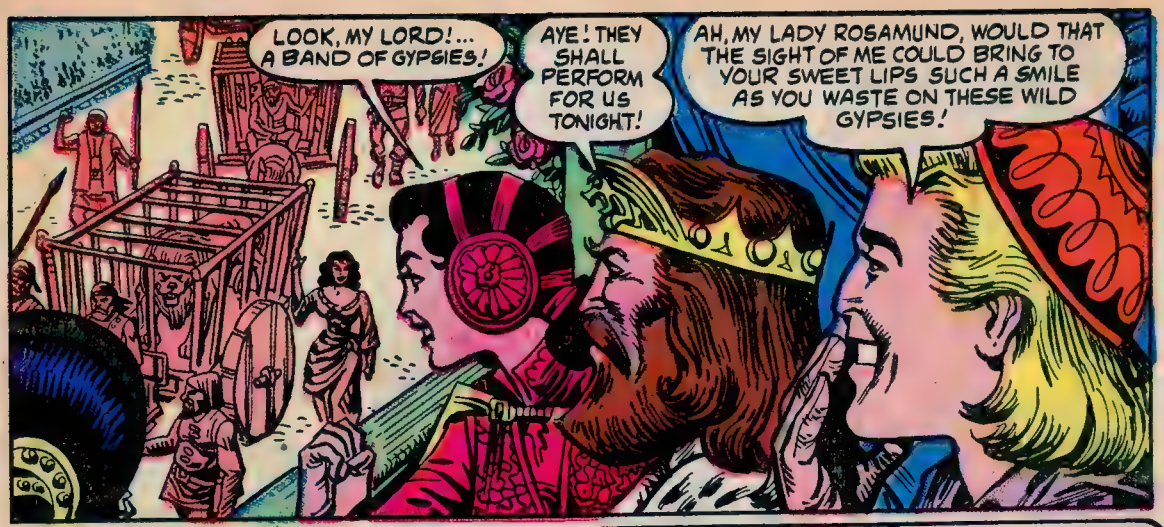
Name_____

Address_____

City_____ Zone____ State_____

☐ CHECK HERE FOR DISCOVERER ALBUM, enclosing only $1 more. Stamp magnifier and hinges included at no extra charge. Money back if not delighted.

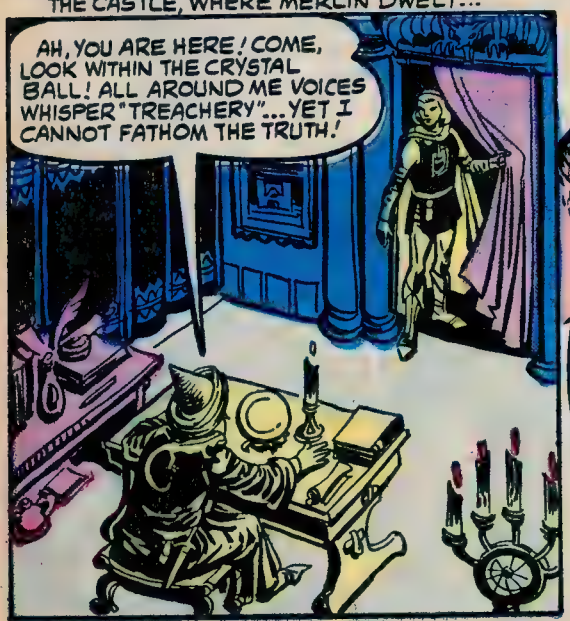
Black Knight
ALL ENGLAND CELEBRATED THE BIRTHDAY OF THEIR GOOD KING! IN CASTLE CAMELOT, THE KING SAT AT MEAT WITH HIS KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE! ON THE MORROW, THERE WOULD BE A GREAT AND EXCITING HUNT TO CELEBRATE THE EVENT! ALL ENGLAND SEEMED LIGHTHEARTED AND GAY ...YET TREACHERY STALKED THE CORRIDORS OF CAMELOT TO PREY AT THE VERY DOOR OF THE KINGDOM!
HAIL TO ARTHUR PENDRAGON, MONARCH OF THE REALM, OUR LORD, AND MASTER OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE!
HEAR! HEAR!
I THANK THEE, MY LORDS! MAY TOMORROW BRING US GOOD HUNTING TO CELEBRATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAY OF MY BIRTH!
G248
THEN, INTO THIS PRIVATE ROOM OF THE REALM'S NOBLEST KNIGHTS CAME SIR PERCY OF SCANDIA...
KNOW YOU NOT THAT THIS ROOM IS SACRED TO WE WHO STAND HERE?
TUT, TUT, SIR GALAHAD, I HAVE NOT COME TO SIT WITH YOU! I CAME BUT TO TELL MY LORD ARTHUR THAT THE CARAVAN OF BEASTS APPROACHES!
SIR PERCY'S SIMPERING WAYS DISGUST ME!
BE TOLERANT, MY LORD! HE IS NOT LIKE US! IT IS INDEED STRANGE THAT SO POWERFUL-SEEMING A BODY AND SO HANDSOME A FACE SHOULD MASK A CRAVEN HEART, YET IT IS SO! POOR PERCY!
104
Maneely
1

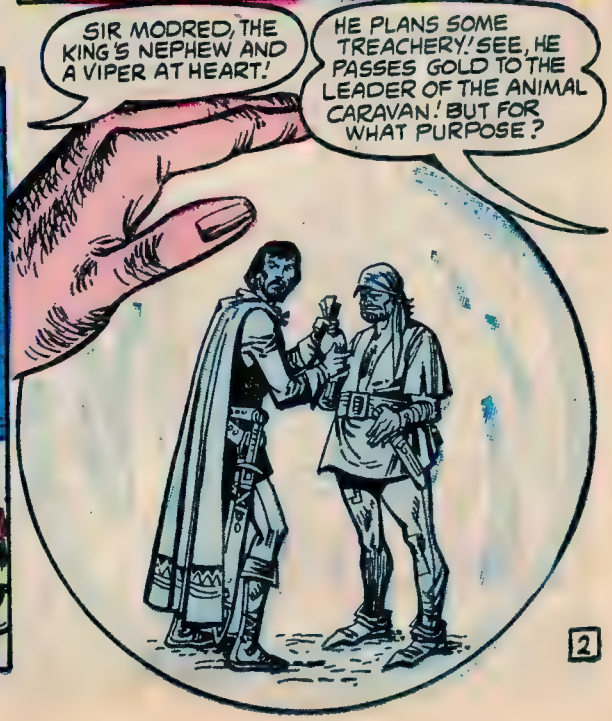

LOOK, MY LORD!... A BAND OF GYPSIES!
AYE! THEY SHALL PERFORM FOR US TONIGHT!
AH, MY LADY ROSAMUND, WOULD THAT THE SIGHT OF ME COULD BRING TO YOUR SWEET LIPS SUCH A SMILE AS YOU WASTE ON THESE WILD GYPSIES!

A MOTION IN A PILLAR'S SHADOWS CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF SIR PERCY! MERLIN, THE GREAT MAGICIAN OF KING ARTHUR'S COURT, STOOD IN THE GLOOM, AND A SIGN PASSED BETWEEN THESE TWO...

BRING BACK TO ME FROM TOMORROW'S HUNT, THE HIDE OF ONE OF YON GREAT NUBIAN LIONS, AND I SHALL SMILE AT THEE, SIR PERCY!
I FEAR THEN, FAIR LADY, THAT I SHALL ONLY EARN YOUR FROWNS, FOR THE SOUND OF THEIR ROARS PAINS ME! PLEASE EXCUSE ME!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, DEEP IN THE HEART OF THE CASTLE, WHERE MERLIN DWELT...




SIR MODRED, THE KING'S NEPHEW AND A VIPER AT HEART!
HE PLANS SOME TREACHERY! SEE, HE PASSES GOLD TO THE LEADER OF THE ANIMAL CARAVAN! BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

I FEAR THE MORROW, YET I HAVE NO BASIS FOR MY FEARS! OUR LIEGE ARTHUR MUST NOT COME TO HARM!

THE BLACK KNIGHT SHALL RIDE ON THAT HUNT TOMORROW, THOUGH UNSEEN BY THE KING'S COURT!

IN THE COURTYARD, THE NIGHT WAS GAY WITH THE SONGS AND CAPERING OF THE GYPSIES, WHILE THE MEN WHO HAD BROUGHT THE CARAVAN OF BEASTS DEPARTED...

AND IN A DARK SPOT AWAY FROM THE GAIETY, SIR MODRED SPOKE WITH THE GYPSY MASTER...

IT IS ALL PLANNED? THERE WILL BE NO SLIP?

NONE! YOU HAVE PAID THE CARAVAN LEADER FOR THE THREE LIONS I HID IN THE CAVE! A GREAT STONE HAS BEEN PUSHED OVER THE ENTRANCE; THEY WILL NOT GET OUT UNTIL THE PROPER TIME COMES!

SEE THAT YOU ARE THERE TO RELEASE THE BEASTS AT THE PROPER TIME, SCOUNDREL! YOU WILL BE WELL PAID!

AS ONE SCOUNDREL TO ANOTHER, I SHOULD LIKE PARTIAL PAYMENT NOW! NOW WHAT ASSURANCE DO WE HAVE THAT WE WILL NOT BE HUNTED DOWN FOR THIS INFAMY!

THE ASSURANCE OF THE HIGHEST VOICE IN THE LAND... *MINE!* FOR BY THIS TIME TOMORROW, ARTHUR WILL BE NO MORE, AND I, MODRED, SHALL SIT ON THE THRONE OF ENGLAND! GO NOW AND FAIL ME NOT, OR ALL YOUR GYPSY WILES WILL NOT SAVE YOU FROM MY WRATH!

MEANWHILE, IN SIR PERCY'S ROOMS...

HOW IT IRKS ME TO PLAY THE FOOL, TO SEE THE SNEERS ON THE FACES OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE! WHAT WOULD MY FAIR LADY ROSAMUND SAY, IF SHE KNEW THAT SIR PERCY IS *NOT* THE COWARDLY FOOL HE PRETENDS TO BE...

BUT IS REALLY... *THE BLACK KNIGHT!*

3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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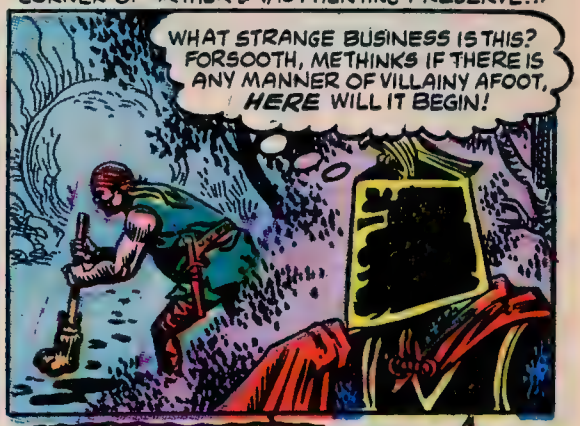
THE GYPSIES HAD GONE! ALL CAMELOT SLEPT, AS THE BLACK KNIGHT THUNDERED THROUGH THE CASTLE GATE, THE SOUND OF HIS PASSING REACHING THE BEDROOM OF LADY ROSAMUND, WHO THOUGHT THE SOUND BUT PART OF HER DREAM...

DAWN WAS APPROACHING, WHEN A STRANGE MUFFLED ROAR AND THE SOUND OF GYPSIES' VOICES GUIDED THE BLACK KNIGHT TO A WOODED CORNER OF ARTHUR'S VAST HUNTING PRESERVE...



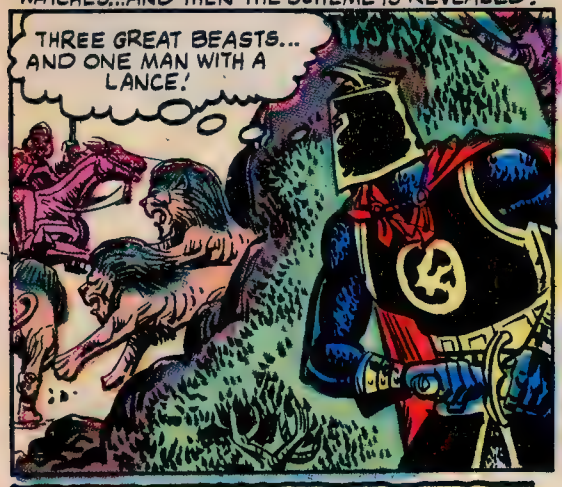
WITH DAYLIGHT, THE CAGED BEASTS WERE RELEASED...

...AND THE HUNT BEGAN!

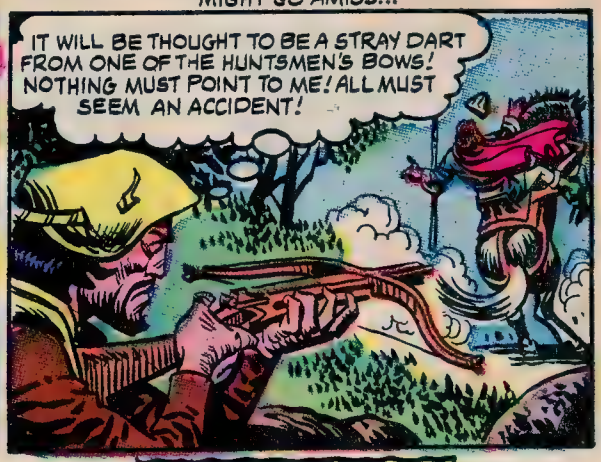
THE DAY GREW HOT, AND THE KNIGHTS' ZEST FOR THE SPORT WANED! SOON, ONLY KING ARTHUR AND SIR MODRED WERE LEFT, OF THE HUNT...

QUICKLY, REMOVE THE STONE! WE WILL STAY CLOSE BY! IF ANYTHING GOES AMISS, IT WILL BE TOO BAD FOR US!
LOOK, SIRE, A MIGHTY LION! THE KING OF BEASTS FOR THE KING OF ENGLAND! IT GOES THROUGH THE BRUSH!

FROM A SCREEN OF BRANCHES, THE BLACK KNIGHT WATCHES...AND THEN THE SCHEME IS REVEALED!



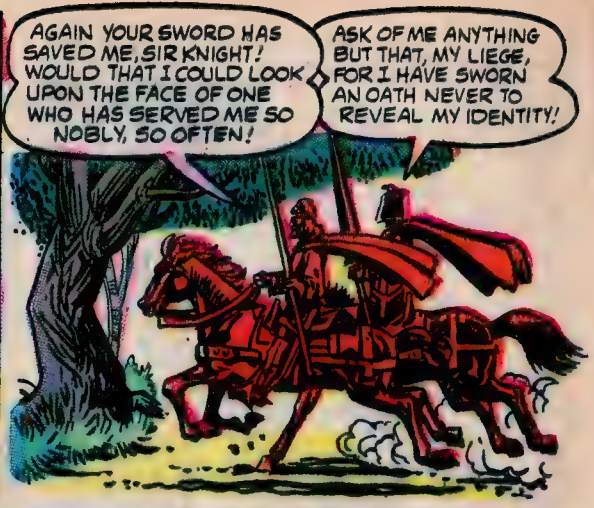
EVEN THEN, WITH THE ODDS SO GREAT AGAINST THE KING, MODRED TOOK NO CHANCE THAT HIS PLOT MIGHT GO AMISS...

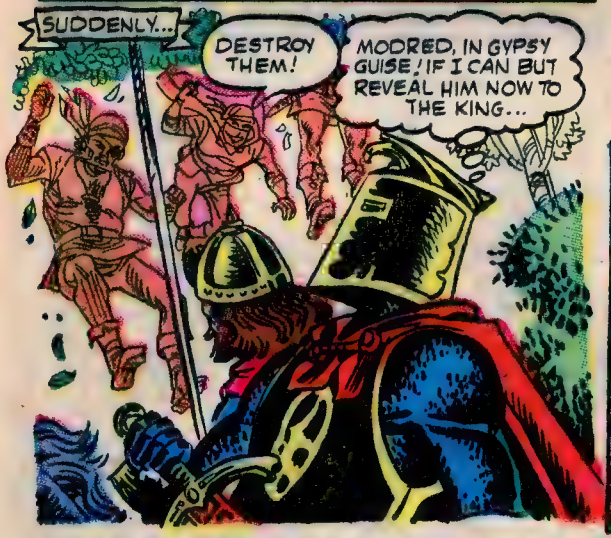


THE KING WAS DOWN! THEN A MIGHTY VOICE SHOUTED AND AN EBONY FIGURE THUNDERED UPON THE SCENE...

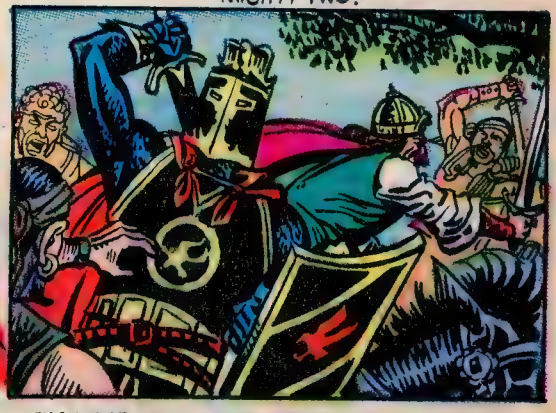
THE BLACK SWORD SANG!

CLAWS SLITHERED FROM THE BLACK ARMOR! THEN A HAND OF STEEL GRASPED THE ROARING BEAST!


AGAIN YOUR SWORD HAS SAVED ME, SIR KNIGHT! WOULD THAT I COULD LOOK UPON THE FACE OF ONE WHO HAS SERVED ME SO NOBLY, SO OFTEN!
ASK OF ME ANYTHING BUT THAT, MY LIEGE, FOR I HAVE SWORN AN OATH NEVER TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY!



EXCALIBUR AND THE EBONY BLADE, LEGENDARY SWORDS BOTH, AND IN THE HANDS OF THESE TWO MIGHTY MEN, UNCONQUERABLE! THE GYPSIES WERE MANY, BUT WHAT MERE HANDFUL OF MEN, HOWEVER FIERCE, COULD STAND AGAINST THESE MIGHTY TWO?



IN A MOMENT, THE GYPSIES TURNED AND RAN! A HORSE THUNDERED AWAY INTO THE WOODS! MODRED HAD MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE...

THAT EVENING, IN THE GREAT DINING HALL, WHERE THE NOBLES OF CAMELOT RESTED AFTER THE HUNT...

YOUR HUNTSMEN COME TO LOOK FOR THEE, SIRE! I LEAVE NOW! IN TIME OF NEED, I SHALL RETURN! PENDRAGON FOREVER!
AGAIN ADIEU, BLACK KNIGHT...AND THE THANKS OF THY KING, AND SO ENGLAND, GO WITH THEE!

...AND WHEN THE LIONS ROARED, MY HORSE REARED AND THREW ME, AS I WAS ABOUT TO COME TO YOUR AID...
SIR MODRED FELL AND HIS MOUNT DID DRAG HIM OVER GROUND SO ROUGH,
BUT ALAS THE STEED WAS STUPID AND DID NOT DRAG HIM FAR ENOUGH!
6.

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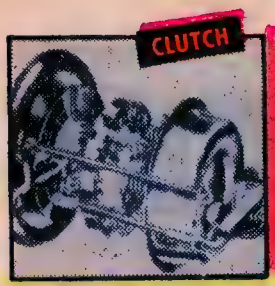

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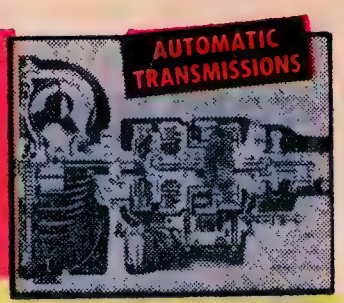

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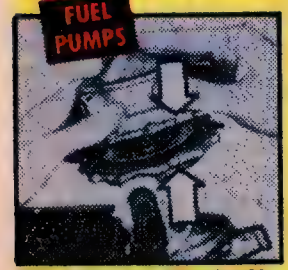

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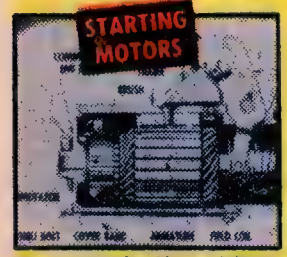

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THE PLOTTERS

"GO THEN, Launcelot, if you must," King Arthur spoke fondly to his friend. "And when you return to our sight, may you bring many tales of bravery and glory to grace Camelot's halls."

"I go then, my liege," Launcelot answered. "Inactivity here in our court life has made my arm stiff. I long to test my strength and courage in the great outdoors again. And also, to take your personal greetings to the far provinces of the northern lands where you so seldom appear."

And as the court of Camelot gave their final farewells to Launcelot, Morgan le Fey called secretly to Modred.

"Let the messenger depart to our friend waiting in the hills. Tell him that Launcelot has departed. All is well now to present himself to the court."

"It shall be done, my wife," Modred whispered. "Your mind has fashioned a plot this time which cannot fail. Soon, you and I shall be called the King and Queen of all England."

None saw a lone rider speeding through Camelot's gates and turning in the opposite direction from the disappearing Launcelot. None knew of the plot which was being put in motion to grasp the throne from the noble hand of Arthur, save Morgan le Fey and her husband, Modred. They watched with eagerness that evening during dinner, when a page entered the great dining hall and delivered his message to Arthur.

"A knight?" Arthur questioned. "Know you that all knights are welcome here. Bring him to my sight."

And as the page disappeared, Merlin moved closer to his king, sensing the danger that was about to come.

The great doors swung open, and a great figure moved through them. He was clad in armor and strode toward Arthur with determination, carrying a black shield without markings. A hush fell over the crowd as they watched the stranger approach their king, neither bowing or pledging allegiance to the monarch.

"Who art thou, Knight?" Arthur asked loudly, and the answer was clear and echoed through the vaulted chamber.

"I am Brandel! I am the son of King Vortigern, rightful king of all England. You, Arthur, and your brothers and father took the throne from my father and I have come to claim what is rightfully mine!"

"Brandel," said Arthur, "my thoughts are filled with sadness at the thought of your father, who would rather have died than step from the throne . . . that same throne of England which had belonged to a Pendragon for countless years. Your father was a brave man, but proud and ambitious."

"My father was king!" Brandel shouted. "And now *I* shall be king." He threw his shield to the floor before Arthur. "I challenge you, the honor of your house, and the throne of England, to meet in combat on the morrow. I shall be victor, and shall sit upon the throne tomorrow in your stead!"

The knight turned, and left the hall. All eyes were upon Arthur. The king turned then to Merlin for counsel in this surprising event.

"Come you, Merlin. Step into the chamber adjoining. I must seek wise words from you concerning this."

The king and his adviser retired from the dining hall and sought the quiet of another room. All the court was watching the two men, so they could not see Morgan le Fey silently steal from her place and disappear through the curtains to the corridor. Only Modred's eyes followed her as she turned through the hall that led directly to Arthur's private chambers.

"I cannot but believe that the son of Vortigern is mad," Arthur told Merlin. "There is no one in this country who does not know the legend of Excalibur and that with my powerful sword at my side, I am invincible."

"Brandel must also know of the sword, my liege," Merlin told him. "But my powers tell me that he knows something else. There is someone here in this court, my king, who would betray you . . . and who is working with Brandel in this."

"Betray their king?" asked Arthur unbelieving. "For a foreign power, yes . . . but surely not one of the court, whom I count as dearly as my own blood."

"As your own blood," echoed Merlin, thinking. But he thought more carefully about accusing.

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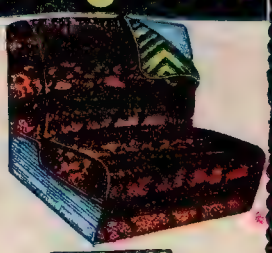

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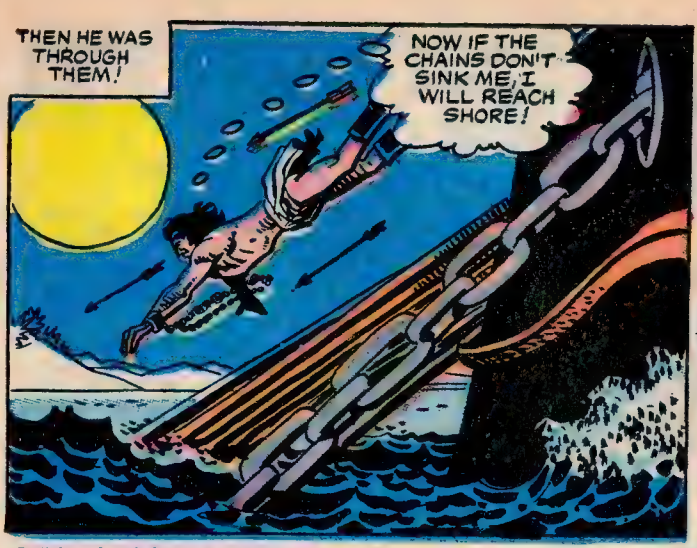
LOOK YOU... KING RICHARD STANDS SILHOUETTED WITHIN HIS TENT! NOW SHALL MY ARCHER SPEED HIS SHAFT TO RIP WITHIN THAT TENT AND FIND RICHARD! THEN I, THE DUKE DE MONTFORT, SHALL LEAD AND TAKE THE CREDIT AND SPOILS OF THIS CRUSADE!

FIE UPON THAT CRUSADER! QUICKLY, INTO MY TENT! DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF THIS!
A SARACEN SLAVE GALLEY LIES OFF THE POINT! THESE SLAVE TRADERS KNOW NO ALLEGIANCE WHERE GOLD IS CONCERNED! IF WE COULD CAPTURE THE CRUSADER...

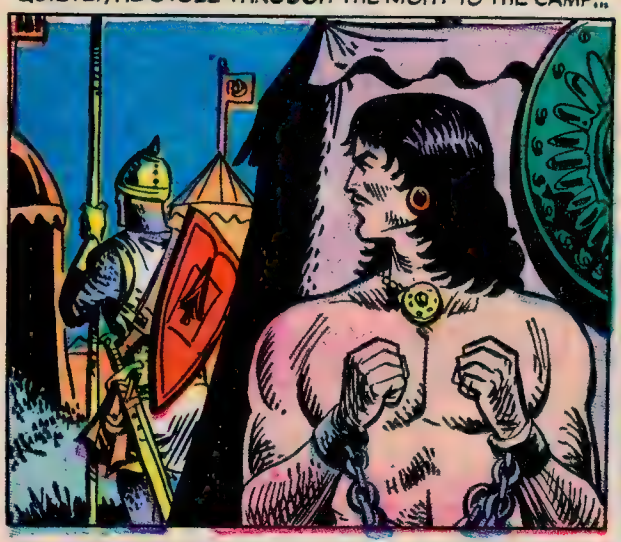
RICHARD COEUR-DE-LION AND HIS CRUSADERS CAMPED ON THE COAST OF ISLAM! THEY SOUGHT TO BRING THE SARACEN HORDES INTO THE OPEN FOR PITCHED BATTLE! THESE NOBLE MEN OF THE CRUSADES WERE JOINED IN COMMON CAUSE, YET WITHIN THE CAMP OF RICHARD, INTRIGUE GREW, AND BETWEEN ENGLAND'S KING AND HIS ENEMIES STOOD ONLY *THE CRUSADER* AND HIS SARACEN BLADE!

A CLEVER THOUGHT, JACQUET! GO THOU TO THIS GALLEY AND STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH ITS CAPTAIN! THE REST OF YOU HIDE AND PREPARE TO STRIKE! THE CRUSADER MUST BE ELIMINATED, BEFORE HE CAN ADVISE RICHARD OF MY TREACHERY!
ONE OF YOUR DOGS WITH POISONED FANGS, DE MONTFORT! DO YOU DENY THAT HE AIMED HIS ARROW AT RICHARD ON YOUR ORDERS?
WHAT? OF COURSE I DENY IT! HE SHALL BE METED FULL PUNISHMENT FOR THIS TREACHEROUS ACT! YOU HAVE NOT YET SPOKEN OF THIS TO RICHARD?
I WISHED FIRST TO HEAR YOU LIE, DE MONTFORT!
YOU SPEAK THUS TO ME, A NOBLE... YOU WHO CLAIM TO BE OF ENGLISH BLOOD? I STILL SAY THOU ART A SPY, BUT RICHARD'S WEAKNESS FOR FIGHTING MEN...
TAKE HIM!
WELL DONE! CARRY HIM TO THE GALLEY! JACQUET WILL HAVE FINISHED HIS BUSINESS THERE ERE NOW! HAND ME THAT SARACEN SWORD HE CARRIES! 'TIS A BLADE OF WORTH AND SAID TO GIVE THE WIELDER INVINCIBILITY!
IT IS ARRANGED! HE WILL BE CHAINED TO THE GALLEY OARS, AND THAT MEANS...
...THE END OF THE CRUSADER! NO ONE RETURNS FROM THE CHAINS OF THE ROWER'S BENCH OF A SARACEN GALLEY! WE ARE DONE WITH HIM!

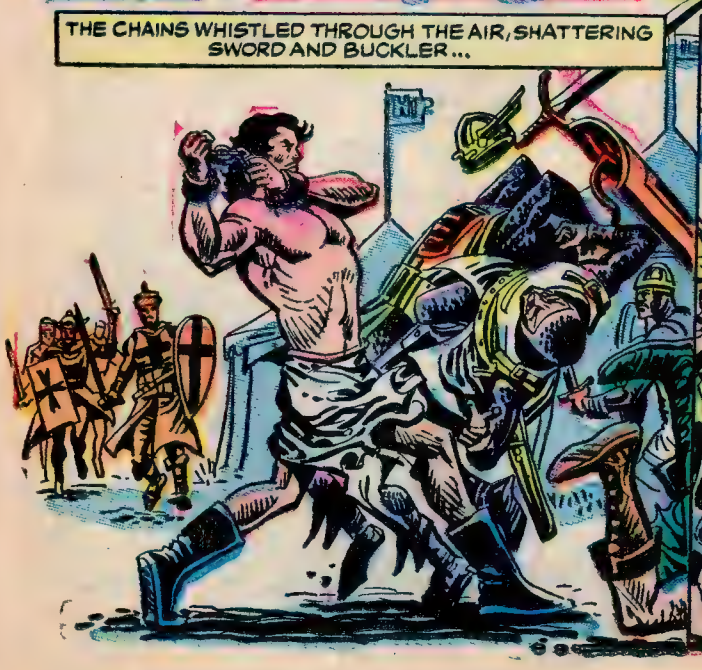
THE MOON HAD NOT RISEN MUCH HIGHER, WHEN THE CRUSADER REGAINED HIS SENSES...
AH, YOU AWAKEN! ALERT THYSELF, FOR WE SAIL WITH THE TIDE, AND SHOULD YOU NOT PUT BACK AND SINEW BEHIND THE OAR, I WILL TEACH THEE HOW 'TIS DONE!
THE CRUSADER KNEW THE DANGER OF HIS POSITION...
THIS GALLEY IS NOT NEW, AND SEA AND SALT ROTS WOOD! IF I CAN PULL THIS STAPLE THAT HOLDS THE CHAIN, FROM THE WOOD...! IT IS A DESPERATE CHANCE AGAINST LONG ODDS, BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE...
IT... IT GIVES!
IT'S FREE!
HE IS LOOSE! HURRY!
STOP HIM!
LIKE A TIGER, THE CRUSADER LEAPED AT THE SARACENS...
3


THEN HE WAS THROUGH THEM!
NOW IF THE CHAINS DON'T SINK ME, I WILL REACH SHORE!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, HE DRAGGED HIMSELF FROM THE WATER...
DE MONTFORT'S MEN GUARD THE CRUSADE CAMP TONIGHT! I MUST BE WARY, AS I APPROACH!


QUIETLY, HE STOLE THROUGH THE NIGHT TO THE CAMP...

BUT THE CHAINS STRUCK AGAINST EACH OTHER, AND BETRAYED HIM!
'TIS THE CRUSADER! HE HAS ESCAPED THE GALLEY! TO ME! RALLY DE MONTFORT!


THE CHAINS WHISTLED THROUGH THE AIR, SHATTERING SWORD AND BUCKLER...

SIR QUINCY, THERE HAS BEEN TREACHERY AFOOT, AND I FEAR DE MONTFORT'S HIRELINGS ARE NO LONGER FIT FOR GUARD! SET MEN OF YOUR OWN, TO GUARD RICHARD'S CAMP!
I SHALL SEE TO IT, SIR CRUSADER!

WITH THE CRUSADER OUT OF THE WAY, AND THE SARACEN BLADE IN MY POSSESSION, THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO STOP ME FROM MY AMBITIONS, EXCEPT RICHARD... AND HE I WILL TAKE CARE OF!
NAY, DE MONTFORT, THE SARACEN BLADE IS ONLY INVINCIBLE IN THE HAND OF A MAN WHOSE SOUL IS CLEAN! YOUR HEART AND MIND ARE BLACK AS THE PIT, YOUR NAME A BLOT UPON ALL THAT IS NOBLE AND KNIGHTLY!
YOU!
DE MONTFORT SAW THE WEARINESS THAT ETCHED THE FACE OF THE CRUSADER! HE SAW THE WEIGHT OF THE CHAINS THAT WEIGHTED DOWN THE SWORD ARM OF THIS MAN STANDING BEFORE HIM WITHOUT PROTECTIVE ARMOR, AND HIS EYES GLEAMED CUNNINGLY, AS HE ATTACKED...
THIS TIME YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE!
'TIS NOT YOUR DAY, DE MONTFORT, AND NEVER SHALL IT BE, WHILE I CAN LIFT MY SWORD TO STAND BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR WICKED DESIGNS!
I SHALL NOT TAKE MY JUST REVENGE... NEITHER SHALL I INFORM RICHARD OF YOUR PERFIDY, FOR HE HAS ENOUGH TO TROUBLE HIM! BUT TAKE WARNING... ATTEMPT TO HARM RICHARD, AND YOU WILL HAVE ME TO DEAL WITH... AND NEXT TIME, I MIGHT NOT SHOW SUCH CHARITY!
THE END
5

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN ADVENTURE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

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...CONTINUED

Instead he suggested, "We must go now to Excalibur, and tend to its safekeeping until the morrow."

But as the pair entered Arthur's chambers and went to the trunk in which Excalibur was kept, their eyes encountered emptiness.

"It's gone!" shouted Arthur.

"It is as I feared, good king. Your majesty is not safe. Tomorrow Brandel will meet you in combat, and for once, you shall not have Excalibur to protect you."

"Have no fear on that score, good Merlin," the king indeed looked mighty and strong. "I shall defeat Brandel, even without my sword. Go now into your rooms. I have need for rest this night."

As Merlin departed, his brow was furrowed with worry for the monarch. Although Arthur was a match for the usurper, in fair combat, Merlin knew that there were others to fight. Others who worked with cunning and slyness, to obtain his throne.

Preoccupied, Arthur went to his table and filled a goblet with water which his servant had placed there earlier. He drank the water down, unaware of the telltale evidences of a powder in the bottom of the cup. He sank on his bed in a deep sleep, unmindful that the fate of his nation rested on the drug that Morgan le Fey had placed in the water after she had stolen Excalibur from its resting place.

Morning dawned bright and fair in the courtyards of Camelot, and the castle was busy preparing for the battle which was to decide the ruler of England. Ere long, the field was full of spectators, and soon Brandel's horse raced into the middle of the yard.

"Where is the mighty ruler of all England?" Brandel shouted. "Where is the man who calls himself king?"

No one spoke. Everyone stared at the gates and balconies of the castle, but Arthur did not appear.

"Your king is a coward," Brandel denounced. "He is afraid to show himself before such a mighty opponent as myself."

Merlin sensed that his country's fate was held in the balance of this moment.

Brandel's words rang shrilly across the courtyard. "I proclaim myself your king and liege," he told them. "I am the new king of . . ."

A flurry of shouts and horse's hoofs interrupted the usurper's speech. All heads turned toward the drawbridge which was being lowered to allow the lone knight to enter. The cry went up from Merlin and was carried by all the spectators.

"Launcelot! Launcelot has returned!"

Sir Launcelot's horse reared as he entered the field. "To arms, Brandel . . . for the honor of England and Pendragon!" All the court rang with sounds of charging hoofs and clanging steel. Both men were unhorsed after the first engagement. The shouts echoed from the hills. A thrust, and then another, but no man could gain advantage. Both were strong knights, skilled at battle, and fighting for a cause precious to them . . . but one had right on his side, and the other, wrong. Soon, Brandel's arm grew weary, his steps grew shorter, and Launcelot saw that the battle would soon be his. One backward step, and Brandel's foot had slipped and he was down.

"Do you yield, Brandel?" Launcelot shouted to him.

"I . . . yield!" Brandel gasped.

The crowd's shouts were stopped by one man. Arthur, the king, at last falteringly appeared on the balcony. He raised his hand for silence, and then spoke.

"Our thanks to our friend, the good and noble Launcelot, who this day saved his country from the ignoble rule of a tyrant." The king's hand went to his head. Unable to continue, he told the crowd, "I will join you later in the festivities." His servants helped him into his chambers as the court ladies and knights shouted their approval.

Merlin made his way to Launcelot through the crowd. He whispered to him, "I'm overjoyed to see that my messenger which I dispatched last night reached you in time."

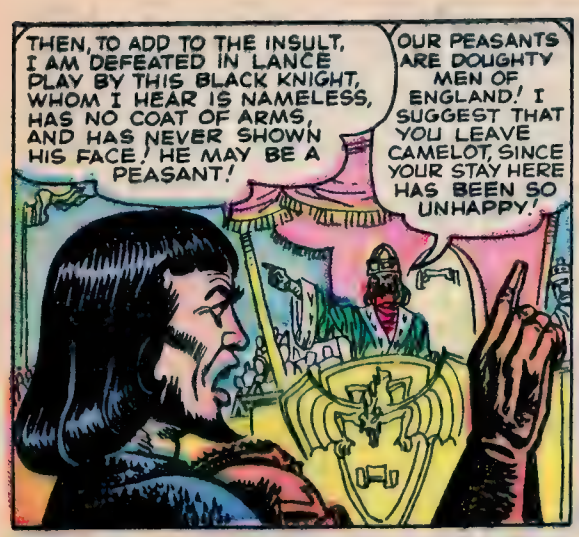
"I rode as fast as my steed could carry me, Merlin," Launcelot replied. "I'm honored that I could protect my king."

"I feel that more protection is needed here in the castle than in the north country, Launcelot," Merlin told him. "Although the plot failed today, tomorrow there may be another." The wise man held up an envelope filled with white, dusty powder. "A sleeping potion," he explained. "I found it in Morgan le Fey's chambers. Our king was last night drugged into a deep sleep so that he could not appear today. We must make sure that nothing like this happens again."

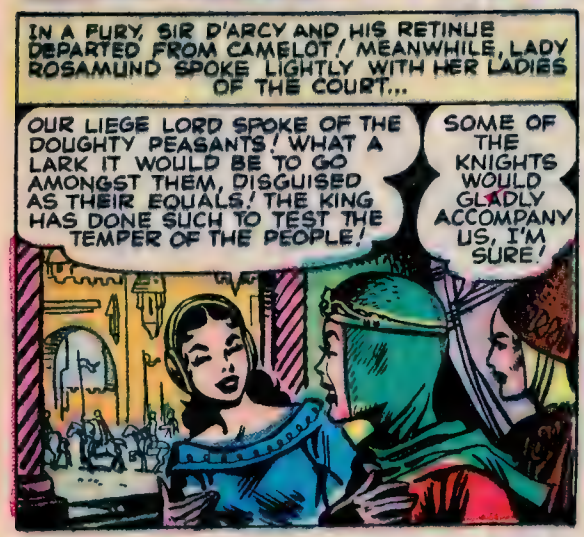
Launcelot gazed steadfastly at Merlin. "As long as I am at my king's side, he will be protected. I do this both for my sake . . . and England's!"

THE END G-544

Black Knight
THE LANCE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT TOPPLED SIR D'ARCY FROM HIS MOUNT! THIS WAS THE END OF THE TOURNAMENT, BUT IT WAS NOT THE LAST OF D'ARCY, FOR THIS KNIGHT SWORE VENGEANCE! BUT HE HAD NOT RECKONED WITH THE DOUGHTY MEN OF ENGLAND'S EARTH, OR THE POWER THAT LAY IN THE SWORD-ARM OF THE BLACK KNIGHT!
ENOUGH, SIR BLACK KNIGHT! OUR VISITOR FROM FRANCE WILL, METHINKS, ACKNOWLEDGE HIS DEFEAT! WE MUST SHOW HIM EVERY COURTESY!
MY LORD SPEAKS AND HIS VASSAL OBEYS! RISE, SIR D'ARCY!
YOU SPEAK OF COURTESY, MY LORD PENDRAGON? WHAT COURTESY IS THIS? I COME HERE TO JOIN YOUR KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE, AND I AM REFUSED! I REQUEST MY LADY ROSAMUND'S HAND IN MARRIAGE, AND YOU PROMISED...
I SAID THAT IF YOU WERE TO WIN THE TOURNAMENT, PERHAPS LADY ROSAMUND WOULD LOOK UPON YOU WITH FAVOR! MY WARD IS FREE TO CHOOSE HER OWN MATE!
Manoch
G290

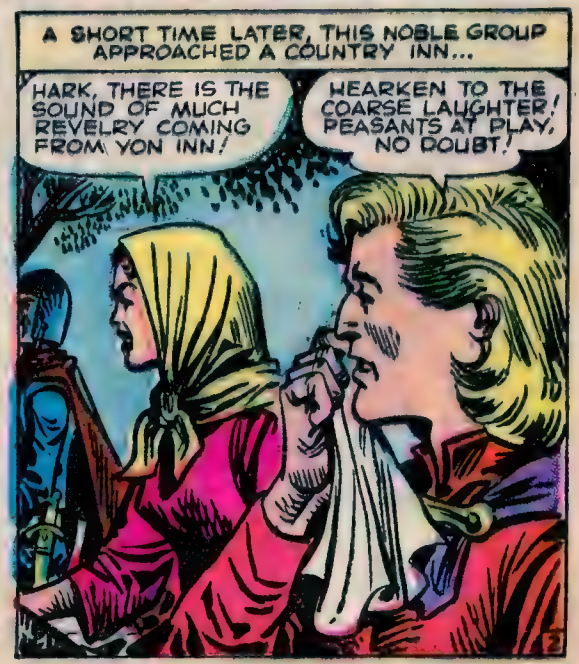

THEN, TO ADD TO THE INSULT, I AM DEFEATED IN LANCE PLAY BY THIS BLACK KNIGHT, WHOM I HEAR IS NAMELESS, HAS NO COAT OF ARMS, AND HAS NEVER SHOWN HIS FACE! HE MAY BE A PEASANT!
OUR PEASANTS ARE DOUGHTY MEN OF ENGLAND! I SUGGEST THAT YOU LEAVE CAMELOT, SINCE YOUR STAY HERE HAS BEEN SO UNHAPPY!

YOU'VE NOT HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, ARTHUR PENDRAGON! AS FOR THIS BLACK KNIGHT... WHERE IS THE KNAVE?
THAT NOBLE KNIGHT APPEARS FROM OUT OF THE BLUE, AND SEEMINGLY VANISHES INTO THIN AIR WHEN A TASK IS COMPLETED! HE HAS GONE, SIR D'ARCY!


IN A FURY, SIR D'ARCY AND HIS RETINUE DEPARTED FROM CAMELOT! MEANWHILE, LADY ROSAMUND SPOKE LIGHTLY WITH HER LADIES OF THE COURT...
OUR LIEGE LORD SPOKE OF THE DOUGHTY PEASANTS! WHAT A LARK IT WOULD BE TO GO AMONGST THEM, DISGUISED AS THEIR EQUALS! THE KING HAS DONE SUCH TO TEST THE TEMPER OF THE PEOPLE!
SOME OF THE KNIGHTS WOULD GLADLY ACCOMPANY US, I'M SURE!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, SIR PERCY, THE ELEGANT FOP, JOINED THE WHISPERING, GIGGLING GROUP...
...TO BECOME PEASANTS OURSELVES AND MINGLE WITH THEM!
AN EXCELLENT IDEA, FAIR ROSAMUND! I SHALL GLADLY ACCOMPANY YOU FOR YOUR PROTECTION!

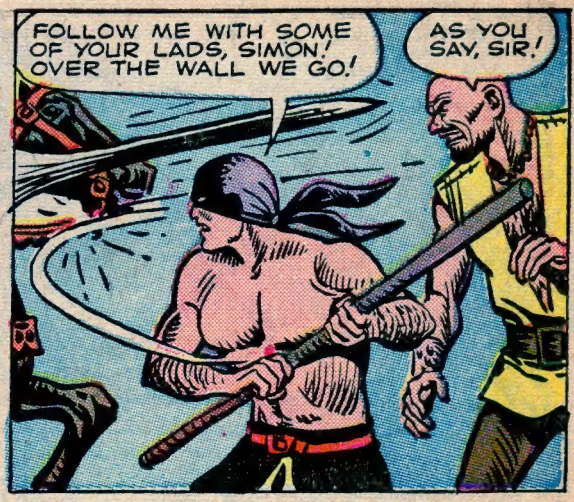
THE THOUGHT OF SIR PERCY, A SELF-CONFESSED COWARD PROTECTING ANYONE, BROUGHT FORTH MUCH MIRTH! YET, IT WAS HE WHO FOUND THE NECESSARY CLOTHING, AND SOON THE LITTLE GROUP SLIPPED FROM THE CASTLE...
I THOUGHT IT WISE TO BRING SOME DECENT FOOD IN THE BASKETS ON MY BEAST'S BACK! THE LADIES CAN RIDE HIM ALSO, WHEN THEY GROW TIRED!
IT WILL PROBABLY BE *YOU* WHO GROWS WEARY AND MUST RIDE THAT SORRY BEAST OF YOURS, PERCY!

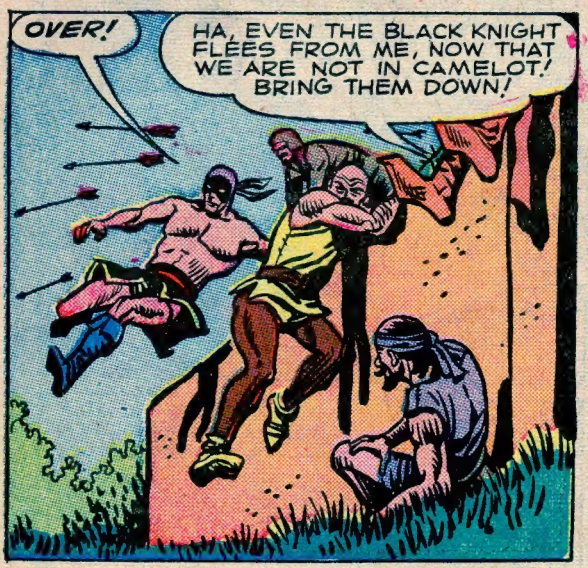

A SHORT TIME LATER, THIS NOBLE GROUP APPROACHED A COUNTRY INN...
HARK, THERE IS THE SOUND OF MUCH REVELRY COMING FROM YON INN!
HEARKEN TO THE COARSE LAUGHTER! PEASANTS AT PLAY, NO DOUBT!

THEY ENTERED THE COURTYARD OF THE INN...
HA, SIMON THE STRONG WINS AGAIN!
WHO BE NEXT TO TEST SIMON'S STAFF?
WHAT UNSEEMLY BUFFOONERY IS THIS, LANDLORD?
'TIS A CONTEST WITH THE STAFFS! SIMON THE STRONG FACES ALL COMERS! SIT YE DOWN, FRIENDS, AN' I'LL HAVE MY WIFE FETCH YE ALE!
YOU MUST EXCUSE ME, LADY ROSAMUND! THE DUST AND THE SIGHT OF THAT BRUTE WITH THE STAFF SICKENS ME! I SHALL REST IN THE STABLE FOR A WHILE!
I CRAVE TO TAKE PART IN THIS PLAY, BUT AS PERCY THE FOOL AND COWARD I CANNOT, SO I MUST BECOME THE BLACK KNIGHT... BUT NOT IN FULL ARMOR, OR IT WOULD BE UNFAIR!
WHAT, NO MORE TO TEST SIMON AND HIS STAFF? THEN AGAIN I BE CHAMPION!
YOU BE CHAMPION, SIMON, AND AS IS OUR CUSTOM, YOU MAY NAME YOUR PRIZE!
AYE, NAME IT, SIMON!
THE PRIZE FOR THE CHAMPION... A KISS FROM THIS HANDSOME ONE!
NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME, THOU BRUTE!
UNHAND THE LADY, VARLET!
3

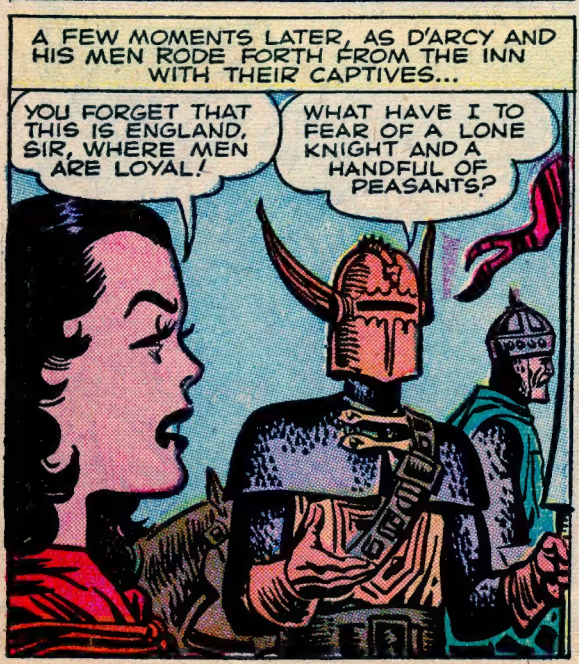
AWAY, FRIENDS! SIMON MUST HAVE HIS PRIZE!
NOW, LADS, THERE'S NO HARM IN A KISS! ALL IN A SPIRIT OF FUN!
COME, LASS, BE A SPORT AND KISS THE CHAMPION!
HOLD, SIMON! YOU'RE NOT CHAMPION YET... FOR I, THE BLACK KNIGHT, CHALLENGE THEE TO PIT YOUR STAFF AGAINST MINE! FORGET RANK, MY FRIENDS, AND LET US ENJOY THIS PLAY AS EQUALS!
'TIS A PLEASURE, SIR KNIGHT! I'LL HAVE AT THEE!
HA, YE KNOW THE WAYS OF THE STAFF, SIR KNIGHT, BUT CAN YE PARRY AND STRIKE WITHOUT LEAVING YOURSELF OPEN TO A CHAMPION CLAP ON THE NOGGIN?
METHINKS I CAN, SIMON!
LIKE THIS! AM I CORRECT, SIMON?
OOFFF! AYE, YOU'VE GOT THE HANG OF IT!
BUT I'M NOT FINISHED YET! WHAT'S THIS?

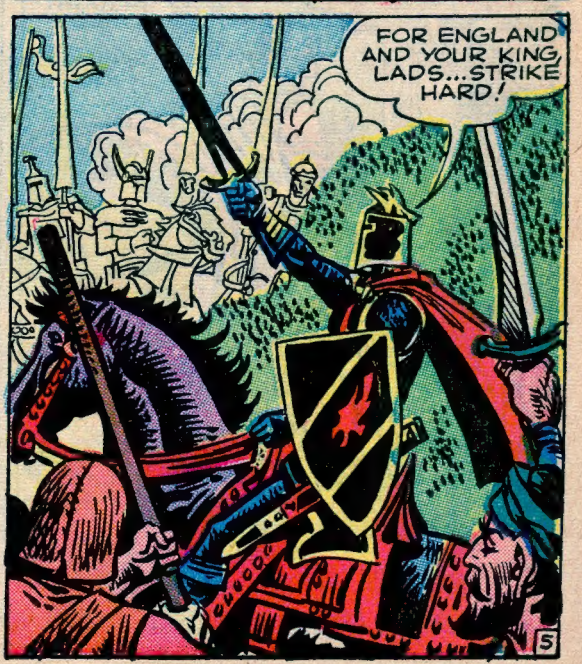
THIS IS A PRETTY HAUL! I VOWED ENGLAND'S KING HAD NOT HEARD THE LAST FROM ME! LADY ROSAMUND WILL BE MY BRIDE AFTER ALL, AND IF ARTHUR DOES NOT ADMIT ME TO THE ROUND TABLE, HE WILL SEE THE LAST OF THESE LADIES AND KNIGHTS OF HIS COURT!

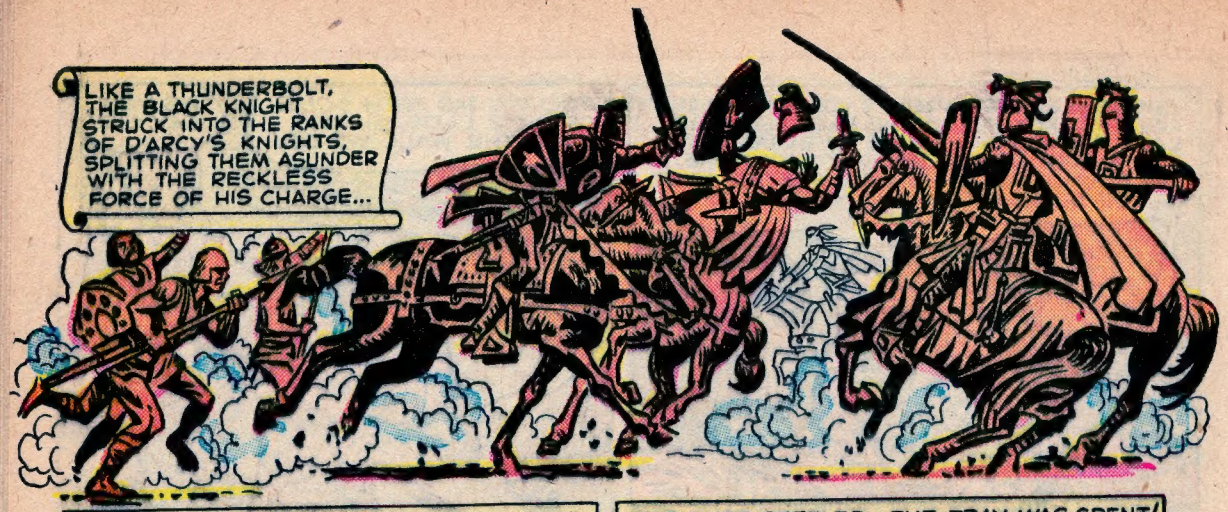

FOLLOW ME WITH SOME OF YOUR LADS, SIMON! OVER THE WALL WE GO!
AS YOU SAY, SIR!

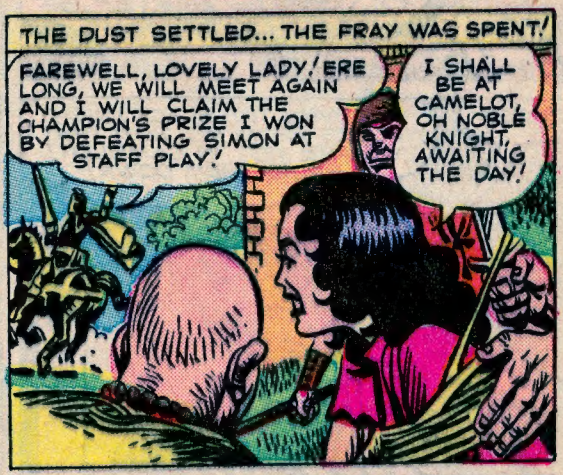

OVER!
HA, EVEN THE BLACK KNIGHT FLEES FROM ME, NOW THAT WE ARE NOT IN CAMELOT! BRING THEM DOWN!

IN A MOMENT, THE BLACK KNIGHT AND HIS COMPANIONS HAD FADED INTO THE GREENERY...
SIMON, WILL THOU AND THESE GOOD MEN LIE HIDDEN AT THE INN'S ENTRANCE? I SHALL DON FULL ARMOR AND MEET YOU THERE! WHEN THEY SALLY FORTH, WE STRIKE! YOUR STAFFS AGAINST THE PIKES... MY SWORD AGAINST LANCE AND SWORD!


A FEW MOMENTS LATER, AS D'ARCY AND HIS MEN RODE FORTH FROM THE INN WITH THEIR CAPTIVES...
YOU FORGET THAT THIS IS ENGLAND, SIR, WHERE MEN ARE LOYAL!
WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR OF A LONE KNIGHT AND A HANDFUL OF PEASANTS?


FOR ENGLAND AND YOUR KING, LADS... STRIKE HARD!


LIKE A THUNDERBOLT, THE BLACK KNIGHT STRUCK INTO THE RANKS OF D'ARCY'S KNIGHTS, SPLITTING THEM ASUNDER WITH THE RECKLESS FORCE OF HIS CHARGE...


THE DUST SETTLED... THE FRAY WAS SPENT!
FAREWELL, LOVELY LADY! ERE LONG, WE WILL MEET AGAIN AND I WILL CLAIM THE CHAMPION'S PRIZE I WON BY DEFEATING SIMON AT STAFF PLAY!
I SHALL BE AT CAMELOT, OH NOBLE KNIGHT, AWAITING THE DAY!

LADY ROSAMUND AND HER RETINUE RETURNED TO CAMELOT TO RECOUNT THEIR ADVENTURES...
...AND WHERE WERE YOU, SIR PERCY, DURING THE COURSE OF THESE EVENTS?
I RACED TOWARD CAMELOT FOR HELP!
YES, I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU SHOUTING "HELP"!

AH, THOU HAST A SHARP TONGUE, LOVELY LADY! I SHALL COMPOSE A MADRIGAL TO THIS ADVENTURE OF YOURS!
SIR D'ARCY STOLE HER FOR HIS WIFE, AND ON THAT DAY 'MOST LOST HIS LIFE, BUT HE'LL BLESS THAT DAY I VOW 'TIS TRUE, FOR HE KEPT HIS LIFE AND LOST HIS SHREW!
THE END
6

ATLAS FOR THE BEST IN ADVENTURE STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER ATLAS

The amazing "Flying Stick" was originally made by the Wild Savages of Australia. They used it to get their food and to protect themselves against wild animals. They discovered the secret of shaping and throwing the BOOMERANG so that it would always fly to the place they aimed at and then come back to them!

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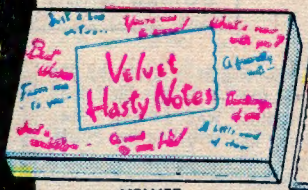
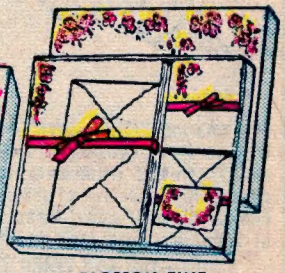


VELVET HASTY NOTES
French folders with friendly messages on front in luminous rose and blue velvety flocking



BLOSSOM TIME STATIONERY ENSEMBLE
Embossed floral design, with gold bronzing, dainty scalloped borders—ribbon-tied

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